

Center

from the

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY · UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

“TAKING NATURE SERIOUSLY” PROVES FERTILE GROUND

When “Taking Nature Seriously” keynote speaker Andrew Pickering, a physicist and sociologist, used the work of two artists with different styles to illustrate his point about changing relationships to the natural world, something entirely predictable happened. The artists in the audience got up to challenge his choice of art.

This is exactly the type of thing that organizers had in mind when they put “Taking Nature Seriously: Citizens, Science, and Environment” together: a chance to get people in diverse fields to talk to each other about ideas of common concern. The conference, held February 25–27 at the UO campus, drew more than 500 people from across the United States and twelve other countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, India, Italy, Scotland, and Switzerland. In nearly fifty panels and four keynote presentations, participants discussed their work as academics, artists, social activists, community scientists, and students. The response to the conference was overwhelmingly positive, from the first call for papers (which yielded nearly twice as many proposals as could be accepted) to the final, packed ballroom for scholar Donna Haraway’s keynote address.

“The response of the participants just showed me how hungry people are for this kind of cross-disciplinary discourse,” said Lynne Fessenden of CSWS, one of the three organizers with Nancy Tuana, professor of philosophy, and William Rossi, associate professor of English. “The discussion that occurred between Andrew Pickering and the artists would not have occurred at a discipline-specific meeting.” Another rich conversation occurred between activists and academics. Viviane Simon-Brown of the Sustainable Living Project at Oregon State University said that she “appreciated putting the human element into the dialogue. Too often, we separate the societal aspects from the scientific ones. They are irrevocably entwined: In academia, we generally don’t recognize the expertise of the people who are working directly on environmental issues,” she said. “I enjoyed hearing activists tell of their experiences.” Simon-Brown also said that she intends to work together in the future with people that she met on her panel, “Community Instincts: Public Participation and Public Process.”

Students from at least eight UO courses were required or encouraged to attend parts of the conference, and a number of graduate students presented papers and chaired panels. Teresa Sabol Spezio, who teaches an introductory environmental studies course, said that her 150 students were inspired by the conference, particularly the keynote talks by Harvard scientist Richard Lewontin and local public interest scientist Mary O’Brien. “Lewontin provided a wonderful distillation of problems and solutions involving science, both recognizing the primacy of science in making public policy decisions and its limitations,” she said. “Mary O’Brien personified the effort to be a responsible scientist and a good activist.”

Students from other Oregon campuses also took in the conference. Estelle Seeley from Clatsop Community College in Astoria brought a group of students and reported that this was “the best conference and campus visit they have ever had—that was because of your vision and courage.”

“Taking Nature Seriously” was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, CSWS, the Oregon Humanities Center, the Environmental Studies Program, the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, and the Departments of Biology, English, and Philosophy. The website, which offers paper abstracts and other information, is <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tns>.



Donna Haraway delivers the closing keynote address at the “Taking Nature Seriously” conference.

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Policy Matters Preview

The Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative will release the next CSWS policy paper on the topic of medical abortion. Sheryl Thorburn Bird, research associate, is one of the authors, and gives us a preview of what's in store for the next *Policy Matters*.

Q: What is medical abortion?

A: Medical abortion is the termination of pregnancy using a drug or a combination of drugs, causing the uterus to expel the products of conception. The medical part refers to how it is administered, compared to surgical abortion, which uses surgical instruments. The two drugs used in the U.S. are mifepristone (RU 486) and methotrexate.

Q: Are there misconceptions out there that you hope to address?

A: Yes. One thing is that medical abortion is not going to replace surgical abortion. Different women want different things—the important thing is, this adds choice, another option for women. Also, this method has the potential to increase access because abortions are generally performed in abortion clinics and most clinics are in metropolitan areas. Nonphysicians could provide medical abortion and it need not be done in a clinic setting. It could be easier for health care providers to offer it without it being so public. People tend to think of this as a new method, but both mifepristone and methotrexate have been around for a long time and both are incredibly safe and effective. They are not experimental drugs; they've been used with a lot of women with very few problems.

Q: When people in the U.S. hear the term "abortion," they may tend to think about it in political terms. How do you deal with that?

S: In general, we aren't talking about the politics of it, except the extent to which politics impede access. Abortion is legal and abortions are provided in this country. Medical abortion offers women and providers another option, and particularly because mifepristone was recently approved by the FDA and we need to get accurate information out there.

Q: Who will be your target audiences?

S: One audience will be the media. Marie [Harvey] often gets calls from journalists and



Left to right: Christy Sherman, Sheryl Thorburn Bird, and Marie Harvey.

it would be helpful for them to have a document. We thought it would also be useful to policy makers—people who want the essential information about it to inform policies or positions. It could be for providers who aren't currently providing abortions and are in the early phases of considering it. It could be used by advocacy groups and researchers in women's health.

Q: What is the format?

S: We're trying to make it accessible and easy to use. People won't have to read the whole thing to find out what they want. For example, if they're interested in the safety and efficacy of mifepristone and methotrexate, they can turn right to that section. It has a question-answer format. It's intended to give information concisely in accessible language.

Q: Will there be an Internet component to this?

S: Yes. The way we've designed this, it would be very accessible as a web-based document.

Q: So, who's working on this and how does this reflect the goals of WHARI?

S: One of our goals is to disseminate research related to women's health, and we see this as a major activity toward reaching that goal. There aren't similar documents like it. The idea for doing this came from Marie and myself. Christy Sherman, a research affiliate, has done work on this and related topics, and we thought she would be a good person to bring in on the project. I should also mention that we have an advisory committee—about ten people—who are varied in their backgrounds but all involved in some way with abortion research, advocacy, or service. The process has been fun. We hope to have it out sometime this summer.

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CSWS Offers Perspectives on Welfare ✓

The CSWS report on welfare reform is out and the authors are just as busy as ever. Now, instead of interviewing study participants, crunching numbers, and analyzing information, they are giving testimony before Oregon legislative committees, answering questions for the media, and publishing short summaries of the study's findings in a newsletter format called *Policy Perspectives*.

"We are very aware that there are different ways to have an impact on public policy," said Sandra Morgen, CSWS director and co-investigator for the study, *Oregon Families Who Left Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Food Stamps: A Study of Economic and Family Well-Being from 1998-2000*. The report, which was based on telephone and in-depth qualitative interviews and quantitative data over a two-year period, was released in January. Since then, the research team—which includes Morgen, Joan Acker, Terri Heath, Jill Weigt, Kate Barry, and Lisa Gonzalez—has presented expert testimony to the state Legislature, written a guest editorial for *The Oregonian*, presented the findings at the Oregon Welfare Research Roundtable in Salem, and published the complete report on the Internet (<http://csws.uoregon.edu/>). The site has received more than 1,300 hits since it began. The team has compiled four *Policy Perspectives* on the following topics: The Oregon Health Plan, Employment-Related Day Care, refundable childcare tax credits, and education. The *Perspectives* are distributed free to legislators and advocates. This summer, the team plans to publish a volume of *Policy Matters* that is oriented to the national debate on TANF reauthorization.

"As a research institution, our role is to provide the best information possible to decision makers," Morgen said. "We constructed the study and have worked hard to disseminate the results as part of what we conceive of as the public service and research mission of the university."

TAKING NATURE SERIOUSLY



Left: Noel Sturgeon, Washington State University, speaks on the panel "Situated Embodiment: Valuing a Gendered Perspective." Right: Chris Cuomo, University of Cincinnati, asks "How do we be responsible to histories that we are not responsible for?"



Graduate students discuss "Theorizing Environmental Studies" at the "Taking Nature Seriously" conference.



Teaching and Tea

Please join us for Teaching and Tea. This monthly series of informal seminars facilitates teaching about women past and present, encourages collaboration among high school and university teachers, and makes use of new digital technologies to enhance the teaching of gender in history. Meetings are held 4:00–5:30 p.m., Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon.

Wednesday, April 11, 2001

The Gendered Garden
Judith Musick, CSWS

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Warrior Women in Anglo-American Folksong and History

Dianne Dugaw, English
For more information about Teaching and Tea and the Feminist Humanities Project, contact Jan Emerson at jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu

RIGs Sponsor Two Conferences

Feminism Unbound

"Feminism Unbound: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Symposium" will feature more than a dozen panels that will explore issues related to women, gender, and feminism from the perspectives of graduate students. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place May 11–12 at Gerlinger Hall Lounge at the University of Oregon. The conference is organized by the Social Science Feminist Research Interest Group at CSWS. "We wanted to create an opportunity for graduate students to present their work in a friendly environment," said Barbara Sutton, a graduate student in sociology and conference coordinator. Sutton and other graduate students designed the event to be participatory and interdisciplinary. "We want to explore the range of feminist work by graduate students and learn from different ways of conveying knowledge. We hope to show that similar topics can be approached from very different angles." Although the conference is graduate student-centered, the quality of the work and the presentation topics will be of interest to other people at the university and in the community, Sutton said. Complete program information is posted at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ssfnrig/>, or e-mail confcsws@oregon.uoregon.edu.

University students, faculty, and community members are encouraged to attend. "We hope that graduate students doing feminist work will get to know each other better, will be able to network and will be more confident about presenting their work," Sutton said.

Gender in Motion

"Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China" will be an interdisciplinary, humanistically focused international conference to be held October 4–6 at the University of Oregon. The idea for this conference emerged within the Gender in Historical and Transnational China Research Interest Group. For the past four years the China RIG has provided a lively forum for academic discussion and exchange for scholars from many disciplines working in the China field. RIG members have engaged in the planning of this conference for a period of over two years.

The conference is structured to address the related themes of gender divisions of labor and political and cultural change, looking comparatively at three chronological periods of social and political transformation, which may be characterized as Late Imperial, Republican, and PRC (encompassing both the Mao and post-Mao years). The organizers are particularly interested in work, as fundamental to the formation of identities and hierarchies, and as a material site for reexamining the cultural construction of gender in Chinese society. They also are interested in sojourning, travel, and movement across boundaries, both conceptual and material, because it is within this context that gender meanings often are transformed.

The conference will provide a forum for scholars across the social sciences and humanities to present research on gender boundaries and the division of labor in China, and to engage in critical discussion with others working on related topics. Twenty-three scholars from across the United States and internationally are confirmed to participate. For more information, contact Lori O'Hollaren, loholl@oregon.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-1521.

RIG Directory

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Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring
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Women Writers of Science Fiction
Linda Long, llong@oregon.uoregon.edu

Spring 2001 Kudos!

Sheryl Thorburn Bird, CSWS, is first author on the paper, "Perceived Race-based and SES-based Discrimination in Interactions with Health Care Providers" to be published in *Ethnicity & Disease*. The co-author is Laura Bogart of Kent State University.

Louise Bishop, Robert Donald Clark Honors College, has been named assistant professor of literature in the Clark honors college.

Johanna Brenner, CSWS affiliate, has published the book, *Women and the Politics of Class*, from the Monthly Review Press in New York.

Jayna Brown, English and ethnic studies, presented the paper, "Roots, Race, Reconfiguration: The Geopolitics of Black Dance" at the Collegium for African American Research conference, "Crossroutes: The Meanings of Race for the Twenty-first Century," in Sardinia, Italy, in March.

Gaylene Carpenter, arts and administration, received an Innovative Teaching Award from the Society for Park & Recreation Educators, a branch of the National Recreation & Park Association.

Anne DePrince and **Jennifer Freyd**, both psychology, have co-edited a book (simultaneously a journal special issue) *Trauma and Cognitive Science: A Meetings of Minds, Science, and Human Experience*, published by Haworth Press this winter. The volume is based on the UO conference on Trauma and Cognitive Science (partially funded by CSWS) in July 1998.

Dianne Dugaw, English, has published the book, *Deep Play—John Gay and the Invention of Modernity*, with the University of Delaware Press, 2001.

Jan Emerson, CSWS, presented "A Poetry of Science: The Life and Works of Hildegard of Bingen" on March 15 at the Driftwood Public Library in Lincoln City as part of the Oregon Council for the Humanities Chautauqua series.

Bryna Goodman, history, and Wendy Larson, East Asian languages and literatures, received a \$20,000 grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for the international conference, "Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China," to be held October 4-6 at the UO. The conference developed within the China RIG.

Starting in July 2001, **Lisa Kloppenberg**, law, will become the dean of the University of Dayton School of Law in Ohio. She will become one of the youngest law deans in the

country and one of only twenty-five women heading more than 180 ABA-approved law schools.

The Routledge *International Encyclopedia of Women: Women's Global Issues and Knowledge*, 4 vol., was published in December, 2000. **Cheris Kramarae**, CSWS, and Dale Spender, University of Queensland, Australia, are the editors. Among more than 800 contributors are UO authors **Irene Diamond**, political science ("Ecofeminism"), **Lynne Fessenden**, CSWS ("Water"), **Sandra Morgen**, CSWS ("Scientific sexism and racism"), **Nancy Tuana**, philosophy ("Physiology"), and **Louise Westling**, English ("Earth"). CSWS affiliate **Mary O'Brien** wrote the entry, "Pollution: Chemical."

Janet Lee, CSWS affiliate, has co-authored a women's studies text with her colleague at Oregon State University, Susan Shaw. *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Mayfield Press) was released in January.

Beth Hege Piatote, CSWS and comparative literature, has the article, "Bodies of Memory and Forgetting: Putting on Weight in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead*" forthcoming in the journal *Paradoxa: Studies in World Literary Genres*.

Elizabeth Reis, history, published *American Sexual Histories*, a collection of fourteen articles and corresponding primary documents on the history of sexuality in America from the colonial period to the present, for Blackwell's *Social and Cultural History in America* series. Reis also edited and published her grandmother's memoir, *Dear Lizzie: Memoir of a Jewish Immigrant Woman*.

Ecofeminist Karen Warren will include articles by CSWS GTFs **Tina Richardson**, English ("Corporeal Testimony: Counting the Bodies in Terry Tempest Williams' *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*"), and **Audrey Vanderford**, folklore ("Can't See the Forest for Her Tree: Activism, Celebrity, and Julia 'Butterfly' Hill"), in a forthcoming anthology from Indiana University Press.

Marian Smith, music, has published the book, *Ballet and Opera in the Age of "Giselle"* with Princeton University Press.

Audrey Vanderford, folklore and CSWS, has the article, "We Can Lick the Upper Crust—Pies as Political Protest" forthcoming in *the Quick*, a cultural studies journal.

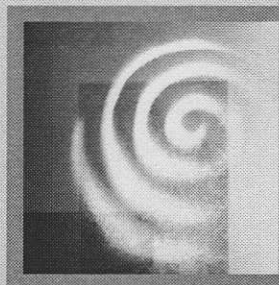
Anita M. Weiss, international studies, was quoted in a front-page article in the *Columbus Dispatch* on February 8, 2001, on arranged marriages and honor killings in Pakistan. She also received a \$4,500 UO summer research award for field visits to Pakistan, Tunisia, and Malaysia.



Good News!

Do members of your RIG have good news to share? Drop a line to Beth at piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu and put kudos in the subject line.

Summer Reading: New E



FEATURED AUTHORS

Dianne Dugaw,
professor of English

Amalia Gladhart,
assistant professor of
Romance languages

Shari M. Huhndorf,
assistant professor of English
and director of the Ethnic
Studies Program

Amanda Powell,
senior instructor of
Romance languages

Elizabeth Reis,
adjunct assistant professor
of history

Marian Smith,
associate professor of music

Mónica Szurmuk,
assistant professor of
Romance languages

Elizabeth A. Wheeler,
assistant professor of English



**"Deep Play"—John Gay and the
Invention of Modernity**
By Dianne Dugaw

A major rereading of John Gay, this study shows that Gay's satiric preoccupations disclose the key intellectual, ethical, aesthetic, and sociopolitical underpinnings of the modern era. Such works as *The Beggar's Opera*, *Trivia*, *Achilles*, and *The Shepherd's Week* map the dynamics of the emerging capitalist order of eighteenth-century Britain. Distinguishing "popular" from "polite" culture and making rich use of both, Gay's satires encode the stratifying categories of our modern world of striving individuals: genders, social classes, ethnic and racial identities, and sexual orientations. "Deep Play" uncovers a diverse cultural context for Gay's work, providing song texts, musical examples, dance diagrams, portraits and engravings.

The book explores the implications of the phrase "deep play," used by *The Beggar's Opera* hero Macheath to refer to the high-stakes gambling of Georgian London. There, fashionable gaming tables brought individuals into a mercurial interplay of anticipation, negotiation, risk, self-interested exchange, and shifting values. This "deep play" captures the dynamics of the new capitalizing order of markets, money, and trade, on which Gay's works fix our attention. Fashioned at the cusp of the modern era, John Gay's multimedia satires bring into focus women and men who encounter each other as historical and cultural selves.

***The Leper in Blue: Coercive Performance and the
Contemporary Latin American Theater***
By Amalia Gladhart

Drawing upon contemporary theoretical debates surrounding performance, gender, and Latin American studies, *The Leper in Blue* examines representation performance within dramatic texts. The book treats the works of playwrights such as Vicente Lenero, Sabina Berman, Mariela Romero, Griselda Gambaro, Isaac Chocron, and Rosario Castellanos, who depict the freedom of performance within the framework of compulsion.

Individual chapters focus on the transformation of historical narratives, ritual game playing, the performance of gender, the staging of torture, and, finally, nonperformance—the representation of coercive performances that are at once demanded and denied. The study highlights the ways in which the role of performance in both the representation and the constitution of gender, historical narratives, and torture is paradoxically at once coercive and potentially liberating. The plays examined not only raise important questions about the nature of performance but also shed light on many of the crucial sociopolitical issues of twentieth-century Latin America, among them economic instability, political repression, state violence, and dictatorship.



***Going Native: Indians in the American
Cultural Imagination***
By Shari M. Huhndorf

Since the 1800s, many European Americans have relied on Native Americans as models for their own national, racial, and gender identities. Displays of this impulse include world's fairs, fraternal organizations, and films such as *Dances With Wolves*. Huhndorf uses cultural artifacts such as these to examine the phenomenon of "going native," showing its complex relations to social crises in the broader American society—including those posed by the rise of industrial capitalism, the completion of the military conquest of Native America, and feminist and civil rights activism. Huhndorf looks at several modern cultural manifestations of the desire to emulate Native Americans, including fraternal organizations that rely upon "Indian" costumes and rituals. In another example, Arctic travelers "went Eskimo," as Huhndorf describes in her readings of Robert Flaherty's *My Eskimo Friends* and *Nanook of the North*. Huhndorf also takes a skeptical look at the "tribes" beloved of New Age devotees. *Going Native* shows how even seemingly harmless images of Native Americans can articulate and reinforce a range of power relations including slavery, patriarchy, and oppression of Native Americans. Huhndorf reconsiders the cultural importance and political implications of the history of the impersonation of Indian identity in light of continuing debates over race, gender, and colonialism in American culture.



***A Wild Country Out in the Garden: The
Spiritual Journals of a Colonial Mexican
Nun***
By Kathleen A. Myers and Amanda
Powell

The autobiographical writings of Madre Maria de San Jose (1656–1719)—mystic, chronicler, and co-founder of the Augustinian convent—capture the spirit of Baroque Mexico and the circumstances in which the majority of Spanish and Spanish-American religious women wrote. A relatively uneducated woman from a family of Spanish descent, Maria entered the Convent of Santa Monica (Puebla) at age thirty-one. There her confessor became concerned about the orthodoxy of Maria's vivid spiritual life, which was filled with supernatural visions of God, saints, and demons, and asked Maria to record the years she spent on her family's hacienda and her call to the religious life. She produced twelve volumes over more than thirty years in the convent.

Maria inscribed her story within the model of spiritual autobiography set by Sts. Augustine and Teresa of Avila, but at the same time included her individual life as a seventeenth-century woman of the landowning classes. The manuscript records in detail her family life, convent surroundings, and social milieu; it introduces an engaging person and gives a

Books by CSWS Affiliates

rare and vivid glimpse of a complex society. Maria de San Jose's writing illuminates how class, race, gender—even birth order and convent presitge—helped shape the roles people played in society and the ways in which they contributed to community belief and identity.

Dear Lizzie: Memoir of a Jewish Immigrant Woman
By Elizabeth Reis

For years I have assigned my grandmother's story, *Dear Lizzie*, to my undergraduate classes in U.S. Women's History. Few students know before they read it that Leona Tamarkin is my grandmother, and most are surprised when I tell them that this is my family's story. Students cannot believe that, despite overwhelming adversity, the girl in the narrative grew up, had five children, that those children had children, and that I, one of those grandchildren, am standing before them, a living embodiment of family—and Jewish—preservation.

Leona's story sounds like many of my students' own family immigrant stories. She is self-educated and the narrative's simplicity and naivete reveals the universality of a certain kind of childhood experience that was and is shared by many immigrants. Leona Tamarkin recounts her ordeal as a Jewish refugee during World War I and her life as an immigrant after 1920. Her narrative rings with determination and boldness, even within confining circumstances. First conveyed as a letter to her then fifteen-year-old granddaughter, Lizzie, the memoir offers a story too painful to say out loud but too important to be left unsaid. More than a family story, Tamarkin's written words bring immediacy and humanity to distant historical events.



Ballet and Opera in the Age of Giselle
By Marian Smith, associate professor of music

Marian Smith recaptures a rich period in French musical theater when ballet and opera were intimately connected. Focusing on the age of *Giselle* at the Paris Opéra (1830s and 1840s), Smith offers an unprecedented look at the structural and thematic relationship between the two genres. She argues that a deeper understanding of both ballet and opera—and of nineteenth-century theater-going culture—may be gained by examining them within the same framework instead of following the usual practice of telling their histories separately.

Smith begins by showing how gestures were encoded in the musical language that composers used in ballet and in opera. She moves on to a range of topics, including the relationship between the gestures of the singers and the movements of the dancers, and the distinction between dance that represents dancing (entertainment staged within the story of the opera) and dance that represents action. Smith maintains that ballet-pantomime and opera continued to rely on each other well into the

nineteenth century, even as they thrived independently. The gradual "divorce" between the two arts may be traced through unlikely sources: press controversies about the changing nature of ballet-pantomime music, shifting ideas about originality, complaints about the ridiculousness of pantomime, and a little-known rehearsal score for *Giselle*.



Women in Argentina: Early Travel Narratives

By Mónica Szurmuk

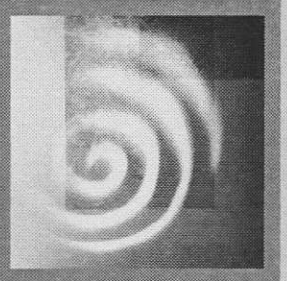
In this collection of writings by women both inside and outside of Argentina, Mónica Szurmuk has unearthed a rich and delightful tradition of travel writing. The selections, recorded from the period 1850–1930, include travelogues by European and North American women who visited Argentina alongside pieces by Argentinean women who describe trips to the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and the interior of their own country.

The pieces show that women writers in colonized and colonizing countries share literary and ideological perspectives and discuss race and gender in similar ways, often using the form of travel writing to discuss highly charged political issues.

In addition to short introductions to each text and author, Szurmuk describes how women's texts were co-opted to form an image of white women as models of nationhood that need to be protected and sheltered. She also examines the history of travel writing alongside the participation of women in public life, population policies, and the development of the public school system, and she offers enlightening conclusions about the nature of travel writing as a literary genre.

Uncontained: Urban Fiction in Postwar America
By Elizabeth A. Wheeler

The 1950s were not necessarily the time of blandness and repression they seem to be. This was also the era of the Civil Rights Movement, the Beats, new gay subcultures in big cities, and a lingering posttraumatic stress disorder from World War II. Even fifties housewives were not necessarily picket-fence conformists—many of them protested the Cold War and wrote blistering satires. *Uncontained* shows how postwar fiction presented a joyful Open City vision in opposition to Cold War discourses of containment—the posttraumatic containment of emotion and the physical containment of racial segregation. The book reads well-known books and films like *Double Indemnity* and *Catcher in the Rye* against recently rediscovered works by Hisaye Yamamoto, Jo Sinclair, Chester Himes, and many others. It reads film noir against lesbian pulp fiction, womanist coming-of-age stories against Beat exuberance. It reunites the divided worlds of ghetto, Japantown, and suburb, hipster and housewife.



“Women Rule” at *Transformations: Women in History* Celebration

The one-day symposium “Transformations: Women in History” on March 9 drew positive reviews (such as “women rule!” “excellent” and “inspiring!”) from the more than 130 high school students and nineteen teachers from ten area public and private schools. The event was organized by Jan Emerson of the Feminist Humanities Project, a CSWS initiative. Jan Eliot, the creator of the syndicated cartoon *Stone Soup*, gave the keynote address before students went on to attend four short sessions on topics as diverse as Frida Kahlo’s work, the many Joans of Arc, and “poison and power” in ancient Rome.

“There have always been women in cartooning,” Eliot said, as she reviewed the history of syndicated women cartoonists in American newspapers beginning with Rose O’Neill, the creator of the *Kewpies*. Eliot said that she spent sixteen years trying to get her cartoon syndicated. “Their initial answer was, ‘We have Cathy (Guisewite, creator of *Cathy*), Lynn (Johnston, creator of *For Better or Worse*) and Nicole (Hollander, creator of *Sylvia*)—why do we need you?’”

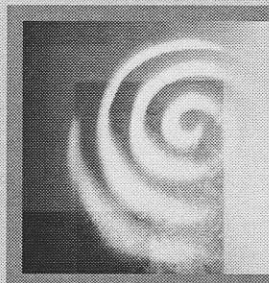
“I could have written several novels and created a lot of sculpture in that time,” Eliot said. “But I was hooked on cartooning and the idea of getting my unique perspective on the world into print. I learned to have a thick skin, to be persistent, when to listen to



Cartoonist Jan Eliot (left) and Louise Bishop at the “Women in History” symposium.

suggestions and when to ignore them. I tried and tried and tried again, all the while holding down one of many, many day jobs. And finally, in 1995, I was rewarded.”

Eliot encouraged the students to think about the many women who have struggled against the odds. “Think about the future they have opened for you, and the choices you can now make for yourself,” she said. “And then promise to make them, and to live a fully conscious, pro-active life—because then you really can do anything.”



Students from ten area schools took part in the symposium.

CSWS Offers New Health Research Scholarship

A new scholarship for UO graduate students in the social and behavioral sciences or related fields is now available from the Women’s Health and Aging Research Initiative at CSWS. The Stanton Scholarship for Health Research supports graduate students who are conducting research in one of the following areas: women’s health, disease prevention, health education and promotion, disparities in health within or across populations, health services research, epidemiology, or other related areas. Preference will be given to applicants doing research domestically (i.e., within the United States), although qualified applicants doing research internationally will also be considered. This award contributes to the Women’s Health and Aging Research Initiative’s goal of generating research that improves understanding of the public’s health. The \$1,000 Stanton Scholarship will be paid directly to the award recipient. Funds may be used both for living and research expenses. Applications for the academic year 2001–2002 are due Friday, May 25, 2001. Applications are currently available at CSWS. For more information, contact Marie Harvey at mharvey@oregon.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-4120.

Wednesdays at Noon

CSWS offers a series of talks and workshops by faculty members and graduate students who are recipients of CSWS research awards. These talks take place on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Conference Room, 330 Hendricks Hall. We invite you to join us.

APRIL

11: Jennifer Rowan, graduate student, art history, "Images of Hariti, Mother of Demons: Pakistan On-site Study, Iconographic Analysis and Photo Documentation"

18: Karen Rasmussen, graduate student, international studies, "An Assessment of Methods of Micro-Credit in Rural Cambodia"

25: Kathleen Karlyn, associate professor, English, "Third Wave Feminism and the Scream Trilogy"

MAY

2: Lea Williams, graduate student, comparative literature, "Writing on all Fronts: Gender, Nationalism, and the Literature of War"

9: Grace Talusan, visiting assistant professor, creative writing, "Filipino Women's Voices: Research into Lives and Stories of Filipino and Filipino American Women and how Geography Shapes Lives"

16: Najia Hyder, graduate student, international studies, "Impact of Structural Adjustment Policies on Violence"

23: Pissamai Homchampa, graduate student, anthropology, "Self-care Practice among Industrial Workers in Thailand: Constructing Knowledge and Perceptions on Health and Wellness in the Factory Setting"

30: Kristina Tiedje, graduate student, anthropology, "Ethnicity and Gender in the Sacred Space of Nahua Ritual Healing, Mexico"

Ecological Conversations Seminar

With three fellows in residence spring term, the conversation continues. On alternate Fridays, the Ecological Conversations Program will offer seminars with visiting fellows and UO faculty members. These sessions are not formal presentations, but working discussions. Space is limited, so please call (541) 346-5399 if you are interested in attending.

Seminars take place 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 330 Hendricks Hall.

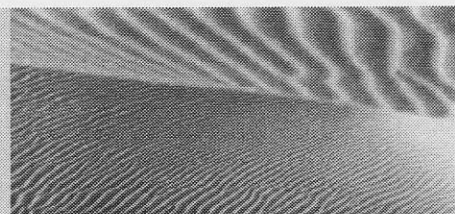
April 6: TBA

April 20: Anna Carr, "Parallel Testing, Parallel Knowledge: How Community Scientists Handle Questions of Credibility, Reliability, and Quality Assurance"

May 4: Giovanna Di Chiro, "Forging Multicultural Coalitions as an Organizing Strategy for Environmental Justice"

May 18: Joni Seager, "Greening of International Population Control Ideologies"

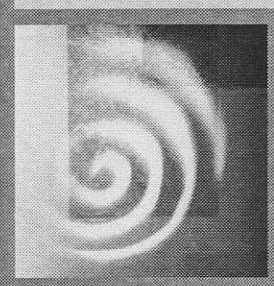
June 1: Shaul Cohen, "Much Ado About Carbon"



Grant Opportunity

CSWS invites UO faculty and adjunct faculty members to submit research proposals on topics related to the third-year theme of the Ecological Conversations Fellowship Program: the integration of scientific and sacred epistemologies in investigations of ecology, cosmology, or health and healing; and alternative conceptions of relationships to place, land, and other living beings. One grant of \$6,000 will be awarded for the 2001-2002 academic year.

The deadline for proposals is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 18, 2001. Contact Lynne Fessenden for applications and guidelines at (541) 346-5399 or lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu.



Research Grant Recipients

CSWS awarded six research support grants during the fall funding cycle. We extend our congratulations to the awardees and our sincere thanks to our reviewers. The recipients, amounts received, and proposal titles are as follows:

Matthew Dennis, associate professor, history: \$5,800—"Seneca possessed: Witchcraft, gender, and colonialism on the frontier of the early republic." Dennis's proposed book will examine the Senecas, an Iroquoian Native people of present-day western New York, during the years 1790-1840. As the Senecas struggled for self-preservation in the aftermath of the American Revolution, this period of adjustment was punctuated by violent episodes of witch-hunting that, in a departure from Iroquois tradition, increasingly demonized women.

Naomi Kasumi, graduate student, fine arts: \$357—In her research, Kasumi is dealing with the "presence and absence" and "human relationship" through her experience of having had an abortion. As part of her work, she intends to show the emotional aspects of having an abortion, as well as a visual representation of her physical and mental pain and grief of loss with an esthetic sense and artistic method.

Karen McPherson, assistant professor, Romance languages: \$6,000—"Canadian women writing: Telling histories." McPherson's proposed book chapter will consider how issues of gender influence the making and telling of history in works by five major contemporary Canadian women writers.

Kristin Penza, graduate student, psychology: \$2,500—"Cortisol responses to stress and history of life adversity among depressed and never-depressed women." Penza's research is based on studies that have linked severe childhood abuse with the secretory functioning of the stress-hormone, cortisol, in depressed women. Specifically, her project will examine the differences in cortisol response patterns to a laboratory stress test across depressed and never-depressed women as a function of recent life stress and childhood abuse.

Monica Szurmuk, assistant professor, Romance languages: \$6,000—"The errant Jewess: Rewriting diaspora in minor literatures." In her proposed book, Szurmuk will analyze autobiographies, poetry, and novels written in Catalan, French, Portuguese, and Spanish in the last three decades of the twentieth century. These texts use a Jewish woman as a metaphor around which to structure a narrative that explores exile, displacement, marginalization, discrimination, and political justice.

Jill Weigt, graduate student, sociology: \$2,500—"The process of combining motherhood and paid work after welfare reform." Weigt's research will focus on the process of mothering in poverty—that is, how mothers accomplish the acts of caring for their children in difficult circumstances, particularly with the extra requirements that welfare reform has added. In order to examine this issue, Weigt will conduct in-depth interviews with thirty-five to forty women drawn from a sample of individuals who left Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance to Families (TANF).

CSWS GRANT DEADLINES

CSWS offers competitive grants to UO scholars whose research focuses on women, gender, or any aspect of women's experiences.

Travel Grants

April 9, 2001

Awards up to \$500 for graduate students and faculty members

Research Support Grants

April 23, 2001

Awards up to \$2,500 for graduate students and \$6,000 for faculty members

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowships

April 23, 2001

Awards of \$10,000 for doctoral candidates

CSWS Laurel Awards

May 7, 2001

Awards of \$2,500 for graduate students and \$500 for faculty mentors

RIG Development Grants

May 7, 2001

Awards up to \$5,000 for RIG projects

Stanton Scholarship

May 25, 2001

Award of \$1,000 for a graduate student

Executive Grants

Open deadline (last request by May 1)

Up to \$100 for graduate students, faculty members, or CSWS affiliates

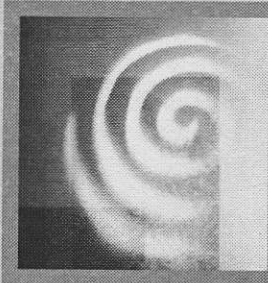
Speakers and Events Grants

Open deadline (last request by May 1)

Awards up to \$300 for support of a free public event

Deadlines are 5:00 p.m. on dates stated. All applications are available outside the CSWS main office door, 340 Hendricks Hall, or by mail if requested:

csws@oregon.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-5015. Download applications from the CSWS website at <http://csws.uoregon.edu>.



The Gift of Time

By Judith Musick, Associate Director

A sunny winter has brought an early spring, and the world is awake with new growth. The litany of the garden is blessedly familiar—daffodils in bloom, light green eruptions of iris leaves, perennials coming back to life, the neighborhood's many cats darting about. I think I can even smell summer in the air.

My garden calls for my time and attention. There are bare patches and piles of yard debris waiting to be tended. Hours of hard yard work lie ahead, trips to the nursery, starting heirloom flowers from seeds ordered months ago. There is a lot to do and a lot to plan. This is what I do every spring—work, plant, move things around, and fret over how best to water everything. I love the regularity of it. I love the work.

The garden now belongs to us and it would seem that we will remain a part of it for the foreseeable future. I want to say that there is no real difference in being an owner rather than a renter—that I relate to these personal spaces the same as I always have. After all, weeding is weeding—planting is planting—all the tasks are the same whether I own the garden or not. But I have to admit that it isn't the same as before. Something very fundamental has changed. The difference is that I have time.

Not just time—but big time. Future time. The sense of "time enough." Time enough to see things grow. Time to make mistakes and fix them. Time enough to completely re-do any part or the whole of my garden. Time to start something entirely new.

And would that I could plant time—little seedlings of time—minutes that would blossom into full days or weeks or months. Wouldn't that be grand?

How much time does it take to write a book? To think through a research project? To learn a language? To know a lot?

It takes a long time. And it takes time in big chunks. Acres of time. It takes time to think, to concentrate, and time to write the same thought over several times until the words start to flow through your fingers and onto the screen or the page. Not just time between classes or an hour or two captured at the end of a long day or after the kids are in bed.

It takes talking and listening time. Time with friends, colleagues, teachers, and mentors. It takes time to reflect.

It's the kind of time that CSWS is committed to offering our affiliates, through research grants, RIG support, and other funding opportunities. We know the clichés—that money can't buy health and that it doesn't grow on trees. But we know that money can buy time. It can buy scholars the time it takes to conduct research, write books, and expand what we know—time to work, plant, and move things around.



CSWS Publications Order Form

- Please send me a copy of *Valuing Families: The State of Oregon's Families*. Enclosed is my check for \$12 per copy made payable to "UO/CSWS."
- Please put me on the CSWS mailing list to receive newsletters, conference brochures, and other announcements.
- Please note my change of address below.
- I would like to make a donation. Amount enclosed _____
Please make your check payable to the "University of Oregon Foundation/CSWS."

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E-mail Address (optional) _____

Playing It Safe: How the Supreme Court Sidesteps Hard Cases and Stunts the Development of Law

By Lisa Kloppenberg. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

Courts often go out of their way to avoid having to decide important and controversial issues. Even the U.S. Supreme Court—from which the entire nation seeks guidance—frequently employs transparent tactics to avoid deciding politically and socially contentious issues on the merits. *Playing It Safe* demonstrates that from the 1970s through the 1990s, the Court has often invoked avoidance when litigants challenge racial and ethnic discrimination, gender inequalities, abortion restrictions, sexual orientation discrimination, and environmental abuses. In the process, the Court can evade its responsibility to check more politically responsive governmental decision-makers when “majority rule” pushes the boundaries of constitutional law.

The Court has not used the malleable

avoidance tools evenhandedly. Its avoidance has been inconsistent and at times politically driven. For example, in *Bush v. Gore*, the Court boldly crafted new constitutional doctrine in the midst of the political arena. Additionally, it has actively shielded states from liability and national oversight through federalism rulings, and aggressively expanded standing requirements to limit the role of federal courts. By examining this contrast and sharing the stories of litigants who struggled unsuccessfully to bring constitutional issues to the Court, *Playing It Safe* shows that when judges fail to exercise the power of judicial review in politically or socially sensitive cases, they can abdicate their constitutional responsibility in the circumstances when it is most needed and betray their commitment to neutrality.




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